

# Alumni Connection

**HOLYOKE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

**SPRING 2019**



How the HCC Foundation became a philanthropic force

**ALSO INSIDE:**

*A soldier's sacrifice  
inspires scholarship  
for student-veterans*

**REMEMBERING  
ELAINE MARIEB  
1936–2018**



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Christina Royal, Ph.D.,  
HCC President

Step onto the HCC campus and you'll see a transformation underway. Our nearly complete Campus Center renovation (opening fall 2019) features floor-to-ceiling windows, attractive steel cladding and a beautifully landscaped entry. As construction workers, carpenters, electricians and painters move toward completion of the project, staff in Admissions, Advising and Student Activities are preparing for the move to a stunning new space in which to welcome current and prospective students and their families.

On the lower level of the Marieb Building, HCC's new 13,000-square foot Center for Life Sciences is preparing students for careers in biotechnology in laboratory settings

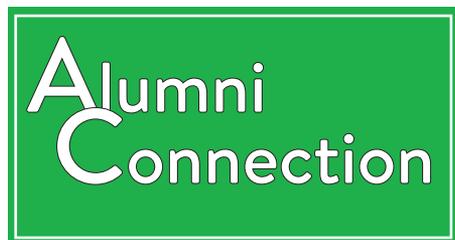
that duplicate what they will experience in the biotechnology industry. Equipped with biotech suites and the only ISO-certified cleanroom in any Massachusetts community college, the facility provides students with exposure to the methods and technologies used in the research, development and testing of new medical devices, drugs, food products and more.

Two miles from campus into the heart of Holyoke's Innovation District, the 20,000-square foot HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute has quickly become a hub for training, collaboration, community events and entrepreneurship initiatives. In its first year, nearly 10,000 people made use of this state-of-the-art facility, and starting in fall 2019, a new associate degree program in Culinary Arts will draw even more students to this exciting new resource for our community.

In the midst of all this growth and excitement, we paused to mourn the passing in December of a beloved alumna and devoted supporter of HCC, Elaine Marieb '80. A passionate educator, Elaine's determination to equip her students with superior academic resources propelled her into a career as the author of 10 best-selling textbooks and lab manuals in anatomy and physiology. As an HCC student, professor, and benefactor, she forged a deep and lasting connection with the college, giving generously to ensure that those who came after her would have access to life-changing opportunities.

Elaine's legacy will forever be felt at HCC, and thanks to the legacy of so many alumni and friends HCC is the innovative and academically rigorous institution it is today. Through your support, we are transforming not just our facilities but the lives of our students as well.

The last issue of the Alumni Connection featured a comprehensive look at the work done to develop the college's FY19-22 Strategic Plan. Building on the excitement and momentum of the past year, more than 100 faculty, staff and student volunteers are currently at work implementing an array of purposeful strategies for the benefit of our students, our college and our community. I invite you to join us—as leaders, advisers, advocates and benefactors—in our quest to be a college of academic excellence known for helping students eliminate barriers to success. Together, we will create a lasting legacy for generations to come.



The *Alumni Connection* is published two times per year by the Holyoke Community College Alumni Office, Holyoke, Massachusetts, and is distributed without charge to alumni and friends of HCC. Third-class postage is paid at Springfield, Massachusetts.

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## BE PROUD

Thank you for your recent Alumni Connection publication. I enjoyed the many articles documenting the success of the college in providing meaningful programs for the current student body. It continued to reinforce the basic concept of “giving kids a chance,” which was a cornerstone of Holyoke Junior College in the ‘50s.

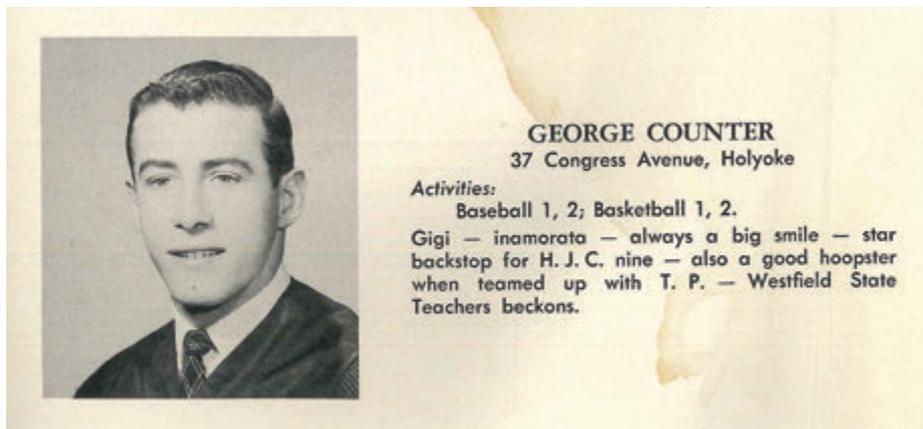
The dramatic picture of the old Holyoke High School going up in flames (“HCC Album” Spring 2018) was an “Oh-God-I-remember-it” moment. I have so many memories of walking those halls, after the high school dismissed, to make it to my 4-6:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. class or labs. In my two years, ’55-’57, I did not have one professor who was not the department head at their four-year school, i.e., Smith, Mount Holyoke, Amherst, UMass, AIC, Westfield State, Elms or Springfield College.

Mingling with GIs on the GI Bill, older adults coming in after work at 3 p.m. brought so much maturity to the mix that the atmosphere was unbelievable. So many of us from “the blocks” and tenement houses “got a chance” for a very reasonable rate. I’m so proud that the public schools of Holyoke were actually running a K-14 system long before it became popular. How many minds were saved by the opportunity they were given?

On the same note, I finished at Westfield State (then called Westfield State Teachers College) as a day student for only \$100 year tuition. Sixty bucks in September and the balance in February. Combine the two schools and you have a public education at a reasonable rate, better than reasonable, and meeting the goal of what a public education is all about, and why the forefathers left England in the 1600s!

Be proud of the work you do and impact you are having on many lives in the greater western Mass. area and the state.

**George Counter ’57**  
**Thomaston, Connecticut**



George Counter's yearbook entry from *The Latchkey*, 1957.

## A PERMANENT MARK

I was 7 years old when the main campus building of Holyoke Junior College was lost on Jan. 4, 1968. My mother, Paige Pomeroy Oakes, was an accounting student there.

I recall how mother, father, sister and I watched in horror and amazement as that grand old gal burned. Now, some 50-odd years later, the vivid recollections of the fire have never left me.

There were the miles of fire hoses, the only obstacles that ever stopped mother's 1962 Chrysler New Yorker. I left the security of my backseat theater to feel the rough surface of just one of so many writhing, steel-hard snakes that fully blocked Sargent Street. Then I heard the urgent command of a grimy, exhausted fireman who ordered mother to just drive over the hoses and get her car out of there at once.

As a mountain of roaring flames breached the once-proud roofline of that building, I felt a huge sense of loss. The following evening found just mother and I there as a blazing sunset outlined the gaping, blackened ruins. What a troubling sight it was to behold, this once-cherished edifice as it wept jagged, frozen tears from its charred window openings. Moments later, the sudden streetlamps transformed

hundreds of dead icicles into millions of multi-colored diamonds and cast an eerie, orange glow upon the walls that still stood.

In time, mother gave a moving valedictorian speech to the HCC graduating class of 1972. I still recall the white, high-heeled shoes mother wore on that flawless spring day, the very same shoes she kicked off as she waded into a mud-strewn pigpen in northern rural Tennessee two years later.

I promise, those two, bitter-cold afternoons so long ago have left a permanent mark upon me as very few events have. I still feel the overwhelming grip of fear when that flaming wall fell only yards from me in the very spot mother's Chrysler had been minutes before, taste the acrid, tar-laden smoke that burned my eyes, hear the thunder of the flames as they cracked a thousand, flat sticks upon those walls, feel the intense heat that carelessly reached through the open window of that old car to assault my face.

How could I ever forget?

**Ronald I. Oakes**  
**Cookeville, Tennessee**

(Son of Paige Pomeroy Oakes Marto '72, deceased)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

HCC welcomes letters from readers. Send your remarks to Editor, Alumni Connection, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040 or email comments to alumni@hcc.edu. Please include your name, class year, home address and telephone number.



**'A really exciting moment'**

*HCC president Christina Royal and state Sec. of Education Jim Peyser, center, along with students, officials and other guests, cut the ribbon officially opening the Center for Life Sciences.*

HCC marked the opening of the Center for Life Sciences Oct. 24 with a ribbon-cutting, lab demonstrations and tours of the 13,000-square-foot, \$4.55-million facility on the first floor of the Marieb Building. Guests included Congressman Richard Neal '70, state Rep. Aaron Vega '90, Holyoke mayor Alex Morse and state Sec. of Education Jim Peyser. "With this renovation, we've just brought the education level of our biotechnology and life science programs into the 21st century," said HCC president Christina Royal. The center, which opened for classes in September, features a suite of new science labs and classrooms and the only ISO-certified cleanroom at any community college in Massachusetts. "The fact that this new lab facility is open is a reflection of the forward thinking of this institution and this community to find out where the future is leading and to move in that direction," said Peyser. "This is a really exciting moment."

**Read more at:** [hcc.edu/CLS-grand](http://hcc.edu/CLS-grand)



*Teddy McCormick '17 and Natalie Richards '17 demonstrate their bottle-filling finesse in the HCC Library.*

**Fill 'er Up**

According to its digital ticker, the new water fountain on the second floor of the HCC Library has already eliminated waste from 7,347 plastic bottles. That was just in the first six months. The ezH2O filling station, manufactured by the sink and faucet company Elkay, was a Commencement gift from the class of 2017, though it was not installed until the summer of 2018. In August, former Student Senate president Natalie Richards '17 and former student-trustee Teddy McCormick '17, who presented the gift at Commencement 2017, helped dedicate the fountain with a bottle-filling demonstration.

**HCC's New Top Cop**



*Laura L. Lefebvre is HCC's new chief of police and the first woman to hold the position.*

In 1986, as a young police officer at the start of her career, Laura L. Lefebvre was one of only four women on the 450-person Hialeah Police Department in Dade County, Florida. She would eventually become the first woman assigned to the robbery division. More recently, she was the first female sergeant in the campus police department at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. Now she is the first woman to serve as chief of police at HCC. She started Jan. 8 as director of Public Safety. "I'm not unaccustomed to being the first woman," she said. "There's a lot of firsts under my belt." Lefebvre is a seasoned investigator with more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including stints with the Hadley Police Department, Westfield State University, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. She retired from Hialeah in 1996 after some thrilling years as a homicide detective during the "Miami Vice" era. "We didn't drive great sports cars and we didn't dress really well, but that was the time," she said. "Miami was crazy and fast ... I'm not looking for that kind of adrenaline rush anymore."

**Read more at:** [hcc.edu/chief](http://hcc.edu/chief)



## At home 'In the Heights'

*HCC's production of "In the Heights" was popular with local audiences and a critical smash.*

Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda set his first musical in Washington Heights, the Latino neighborhood in New York City where he grew up. But "In the Heights" could just as easily be set in Holyoke, says Patricia Sandoval '84, who directed the HCC Theater Department's production of the Tony-award winning show in November.

The musical, which featured actors from HCC, Holyoke High School and the community at large, certainly resonated with local crowds. Six of seven shows sold out (one night there was a snowstorm.). "It was successful in bringing the local Latinx community in to celebrate their culture and identity," Sandoval said. "The discussions afterward illustrated the community's desire for art that reflects their lives and experiences." The production was also a critical hit, winning awards from the annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for outstanding ensemble performance and choreography.

**Read more at:** [hcc.edu/heights](http://hcc.edu/heights)

## Grant 'a really big deal'

*A community health worker student talks to a simulated patient.*



HCC is the lead partner in a project that will bring \$1.6 million in federal grant money to the Pioneer Valley to train community health workers in the battle against opioid addiction. The Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded HCC \$400,000 to add as many as 36 seats per year to its existing community health worker program. In addition to core studies in community health, students in the program will receive specific instruction and training in addiction and substance abuse disorders. Also, HCC's three regional partners – Holyoke Health Center, Community Health Center of Franklin County and the Springfield Dept. of Health and Human Services – will each receive separate \$400,000 grants to support on-site training of those students. "This is a really big deal," said Rebecca Lewis, chair of HCC's Foundations of Health program. "Part of why we got this is because we took a regional approach. We'll be recruiting students from all over the Pioneer Valley."

**Read more at:** [hcc.edu/chwgrant](http://hcc.edu/chwgrant)

## Lesléa Newman @HCC

*HCC student Lisandra Virella of Springfield holds a copy of Lesléa Newman's 1989 book, Heather Has Two Mommies.*



Pioneering writer Lesléa Newman was the guest at HCC's first Authors@HCC event of the 2018-2019 academic year. Newman is a former poet laureate of Northampton who now lives in Holyoke and the author of some 70 books, including the groundbreaking 1989 children's book *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Newman talked about her life as a writer, read poems from her new collection, *Lovely*, and several picture books, including *Just Like Mama* and *Daddy's Song*, answered questions about writing and inspiration, and signed books for eager fans. Authors@HCC is a periodic series sponsored by the HCC Library and the HCC English department.

# ‘A Project for the Community’

**How the HCC Foundation became one of the most successful organizations of its kind**

By JANICE BEETLE

After completing his military service in 1952, Joseph T. Wright wanted to take advantage of the GI Bill. One day, wearing his U.S Army Air Corps uniform, he visited the office of George E. Frost, then the director of Holyoke Junior College.

“I walked in and said, ‘I really want to go to college, but I don’t know a thing about it,’” Wright recently recalled.

“I can help you with that,” Frost replied.

Throughout Wright’s two years at Holyoke Junior College – later to become Holyoke Community College – Frost continued to help Wright and the many other students who he mentored over the years. In 1968, though, it was Frost who needed assistance.

The former Holyoke High School building on Sargeant Street where the college had been established burned down on Tuesday, Jan. 4. Frost – and other city leaders – turned to Wright for help launching a corporation that could raise money to rebuild the college on a new campus.

The Friends of Holyoke Community College was incorporated as a nonprofit on Aug. 1, 1968. Charged with fundraising, it was one of the first organizations of its kind in the country affiliated with a community college. Wright became a founding board member. At 88, he only recently stepped down, having served the organization – now known as the HCC Foundation – for all of its 50 years.

“It’s spectacular how the foundation has grown,” says Wright, now an emeritus board member. “It’s one of the most successful community college foundations anywhere.”

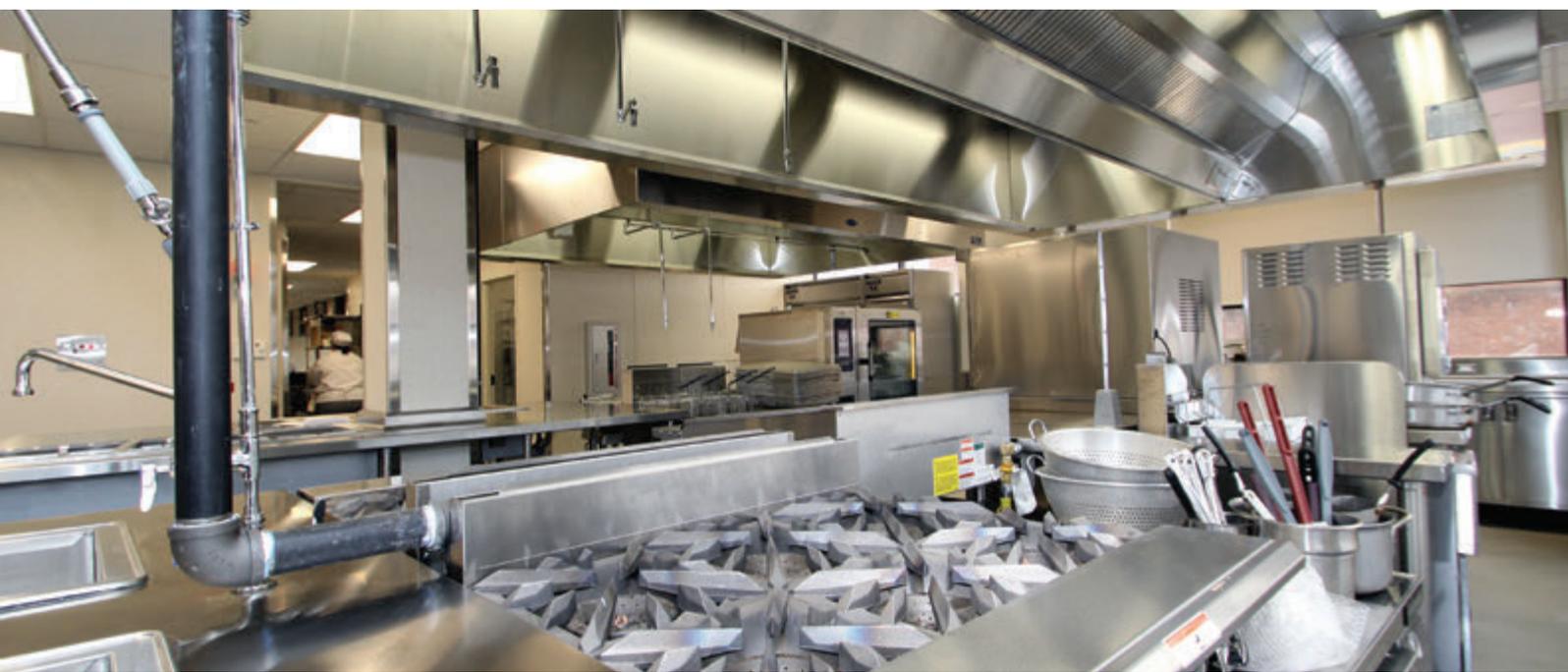
The Holyoke Community College Foundation is certainly one of the most successful community college foundations in the state, according to Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement for HCC and the foundation’s executive director. With total assets of more than \$14 million, including investments of \$13.4 million, HCC has the largest endowment of any community college foundation in Massachusetts.

The HCC Foundation, like its antecedent, The Friends of Holyoke Community College, exists solely to support students and the mission and programs of HCC. In its early years, the foundation helped pay for the development of the original two buildings (A and B, now Frost and Donahue) on the new Homestead Avenue campus. Since then, through capital campaigns, public investments and private donations, the foundation has helped support the construction of every other major building project in HCC history, such as The David M. Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation, the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center on Maple Street, the Center for Health Education on Jarvis Avenue, the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street, and, most recently, the Center for Life Sciences, which opened on the first floor of the Elaine Nicpon Marieb Building for the start of the Fall 2018 semester.

Over the years the foundation has provided nearly \$2.8 million in student scholarships while also investing in classroom equipment and technology for select academic and student support programs.

“The community is so invested in the foundation and in the college. It’s quite impressive,” Sbriscia says. “People are passionate about our mission and the work we do, and that

*Through capital campaigns, public investments and private donations, the HCC Foundation has helped support the construction of every major building project, including, from top to bottom, the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute (outside and inside) and the Center for Life Sciences.*





*George E. Frost, HCC's first president, enlisted the support of alumni to raise money to rebuild the college after a 1968 fire consumed the former high school on Sargeant Street where it had been established.*

translates to life-changing financial support.”

A 30-member board now oversees the foundation. David Bartley, an alumnus from the class of 1954 and the college’s second president – he took the reins after Frost – is one of the current board members. Many say it was Bartley’s passion and innovation that enabled the foundation to thrive.

Elaine Ironfield, who served as the foundation’s executive director in the 1980s, explains that after the Homestead Avenue campus opened in February 1974, city leaders considered the work of the Friends corporation complete. The \$200 remaining in its coffers was given to the HCC Alumni Association, and the Friends became inactive.

In the early 1980s, Bartley appointed Ironfield, a faculty member at the time, to run the HCC development office. Her charge included a mandate to revive the fundraising corporation.

“We had enough of the original board members in Holyoke who were still available and willing to come together,” Ironfield says. “The Alumni Association gave the \$200 back.”

In 1985, the name of the organization was changed to the Holyoke Community College Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the state approved the amendment on July 30, 1985. The board at that time included Wright ’54, his classmate Bartley ’54, Maurice Ferriter ’52, Patrick Bresnahan ’57, and the late Alan Taupier ’55.

Bartley, now 84, says the foundation was a mechanism through which leaders of HCC could introduce the college to members of the community. His goal was to reach more than alumni.

“We had to find some way, other than just relying on the state, to provide money,” he says. “This was a project for the community.”

Ironfield says a consultant who helped them get started advised, “You’ve got to tell your story.”

Over the next few years, HCC played host once or twice a week to friends of the college and businesses in the area. They were treated to a breakfast and then offered a tour of the campus.

“People needed to see what we did,” Ironfield says. “We’d talk about the college and what was happening there, and we’d take them into the classrooms.”

“That was just common sense – to show people what we had,” Bartley says. “We needed to show it off.”

Bartley often made the point to potential donors that HCC provided a steady stream of transfer students to Mount Holyoke, Smith, Westfield State, and the University of Massachusetts. And he was careful to note that HCC served the region.

“We are not the *Holyoke* community college,” he would say. “We are the regional community college, located in Holyoke. We serve Holyoke, Westfield, Chicopee, Northampton. This is not just for Holyoke.”

Francis Kane ’56, a longtime member of the foundation board, says Bartley called the foundation’s growth campaign “friend-raising,” a common term nowadays.

“Patiently, he brought different groups in for tours,” he says. “The college became better known. It did raise friends and dollars at the same time. It was well thought out by President Bartley and Elaine Ironfield. They worked extremely well together.”

Ironfield says the foundation began to really build support in the late 1980s. Individual and corporate gifts began to flow in. Sbriscia says that through the work of the foundation board, Ironfield and Sbriscia’s predecessor, Erica Broman, the foundation saw steady and impressive growth in its endowment, which is now close to double what it was a decade ago.

In 1987, the foundation awarded its first scholarship – the only one that year.

Wright, and his wife, Angela, who met one another while studying at Holyoke Junior College, founded the Angela ’54 and Joseph ’54 Wright Scholarship, one of the first of the roughly 140 scholarships the foundation manages today. Other early scholarships were established by George Boudreau ’66 and his brother Paul ’67 – a former chair of the foundation board – Elena and Frank Cataldo, and the late professor emerita Elaine Marieb ’80.

“I walked in and said,  
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college, but I don’t know  
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recently recalled.

“I can help you with  
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*Joseph Wright ’54, center, and his wife Angela ’54, left established one of the first foundation scholarships at HCC, with 2017-2018 scholarship recipient Manpreet Kaur and HCC Foundation board member Frances Kane ’56.*



Left, Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, talks to Elaine Ironfield, who served as executive director of the HCC Foundation in the 1980s. “We had to find some way, other than relying on the state, to provide money,” says former HCC president David Bartley ’54, right, who resurrected the nonprofit fundraising corporation Friends of Holyoke Community College, which ultimately became the HCC Foundation.

“We saw establishing scholarships as our primary mission,” says Ironfield, noting that in the past 20 years, Broman, now at Westfield State University, brought huge growth to the foundation, in part as a result of \$1 million capital campaign gifts from Yankee Candle founder Michael Kittredge ’73 in 2003 and Marieb in 2014.

“Those were key milestones and set the foundation on the path it’s on now,” says Ironfield, a longtime donor herself. “How can you ask people for money when you aren’t giving it yourself? I believe in the foundation. I believe in the college.”

Kane says the scholarship program was a critical piece of the foundation package as it allowed the college to hold events at which donors had the opportunity to meet grant recipients.

“That really turns on donors,” he says. “It’s much more powerful than asking for money for desks.”

In May 2018, 215 HCC students received financial awards through scholarships established by alumni, board members, businesses and members of the community.

Further evidence of the foundation’s impact is visible on donor plaques throughout the HCC Kittredge Center, the Center for Health Education and other HCC buildings.

“This growth has enabled HCC to respond to the needs of our community,” says Sbriscia. “Every day, foundation funds inspire our students and help them thrive, whether that’s

through facilities, equipment, programs or scholarships.”

Wright and his wife, Angela, continue to support the original scholarship they created as well as several others. Each spring, they attend the scholarship banquet and meet the students who benefit from their generosity.

“That’s a must,” he says.

He continues to be impressed by Frost’s vision for HCC. In the early days, he notes, Frost recruited professors with PhDs to teach part time. Many were department chairs from premier private colleges, such as Smith and Mount Holyoke.

Wright credits his HCC education for preparing him to transfer to Boston University and launching his career in retail. By the time he retired, he was executive vice president of the New England division of Waldbaum Inc., the supermarket chain.

His loyalty to HCC is unwavering.

“I had a meeting recently with a friend at Boston University, my alma mater,” Wright says. “I said to him, ‘Don’t send me any appeals. My heart belongs to Holyoke Community College.’”

He adds, “Whenever I get the chance to talk to HCC students, I tell them, ‘Never forget the opportunity you got here that laid the foundation for the rest of your life.’ George Frost did that for me.” 

*Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Over the years the HCC Foundation has also supported construction of the Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke; the David M. Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation; The Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development (center and bottom right); and the Center for Health Education on Jarvis Avenue.*



# ‘Anything is Possible’

## REMEMBERING ELAINE MARIEB, 1936–2018

By CHRIS YURKO

Elaine Marieb once told a reporter that her gifts to Holyoke Community College were but a small token of gratitude to the institution where she had earned her associate degree in nursing and spent 24 years as a professor of biology.

“I figure working there taught me how to teach,” she said.

What she learned at HCC as a teacher and a student led directly to her ascent as one of the world’s best-selling authors of textbooks on anatomy and physiology.

Marieb’s “tokens” to HCC, made in both small and large increments, now exceed \$1.5 million, making her by far the largest benefactor in the school’s history. Over the years, her donations have endowed student scholarships and an annual faculty award. They have equipped science labs, supported programs for non-traditional female students and subsidized major building projects, including the Center for Health Education, which opened in 2015, and the Center for Life Sciences, which opened last fall in the building that bears her name in large black letters – Elaine Nicpon Marieb.

“It’s easy to measure in figures what Elaine Marieb has contributed to HCC,” said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, “but the full impact she’s had on the college and on the students she taught and the ones who will continue to benefit from her generosity for years to come – no spreadsheet can tell you that.”

Marieb died on December 20 in Naples, Florida, from complications related to Parkinson’s Disease. She was 82 years old.

“Elaine’s legacy will forever remain part of HCC and we’re fortunate that her memory lives on through the faculty, alumni and students she has inspired and will continue to inspire,” said Sbriscia.

Indeed, Marieb is not likely to be forgotten on a campus where her name is literally attached in so many places.

The most visible spot is the HCC science building, dedicated in May 2000 with an embossed plaque that bears her likeness and a quote: “Anything is possible.”

Marieb was one of the first donors to endow an annual scholarship through the HCC Foundation, beginning her contributions in 1986. Last spring, five students received monetary awards through the Elaine Marieb New Directions Scholarship, designated for non-traditional women planning to transfer to four-year institutions.

Plaques all around campus mark the offices of past recipients of the Elaine Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence, an annual award she endowed in 1991. HCC history professor George Ashley, now retired, was the first honoree.

“Elaine was a great teacher and colleague,” Ashley wrote in an online remembrance from his winter home in Mexico. “She inspired her students and made a course many students dreaded seem possible, partly by writing the best anatomy and physiology textbook on the market. And she used a large part of the money she earned from the text to fund better facilities for students and recognize other excellent teachers. I am sorry she is gone, but very happy that I knew her and learned from her.”

A 1996 donation funded the creation of the Elaine Marieb Anatomy & Physiology Lab on the third floor of the Frost Building. Her name also graces the Elaine Marieb New Pathways Center, called the “Marieb Center” for short, that she helped establish in 2008 as a lounge, computer room and study area for students in Pathways and New Directions, two HCC programs for non-traditional women that have benefitted greatly from her largesse over the years.



Elaine Marieb, in recent years, on the beach in Florida, where she resided in Sarasota.



***“She had this larger-than-life reputation, but when she came in here she would let the students be the center of attention. She loved coming here. She loved talking to students.”***

“I returned to college as a non-traditional student, and I know how important this type of support is to these students,” Marieb wrote in a 1998 letter to the HCC Foundation that projects her immediate and future support for those programs. “The encouragement and assistance that I received contributed to my success. I feel that the best way in which I can express my appreciation to everyone who helped me succeed is to assist these students.”

Marieb was born in Northampton, Mass., in 1936 and grew up there on the Nicpon family farm. She earned her first bachelor’s degree from Westfield State College in 1964 when she was 28 years old. She continued her education at Mount Holyoke College, earning a master’s degree in biology and later a PhD in zoology from the University of Massachusetts. She began her teaching career at Springfield College before coming to work at HCC in 1969.

She started writing textbooks on anatomy and physiology to address complaints from her nursing charges about the ineffectiveness of the materials then in use. To inform her teaching and improve her writing, she enrolled in the HCC nursing program to better understand the course content from a students’ perspective. She graduated from HCC with her associate degree in 1980.

From there Marieb went on to attain additional degrees from Fitchburg State College (B.S., nursing) and the University of Massachusetts (M.A., nursing, gerontology). All the while she continued to teach and write lab manuals and textbooks.

Marieb retired from HCC in 1993 to devote herself to writing. She is the author or co-author of more than 10 best-selling textbooks and laboratory manuals in anatomy and physiology. In 2016, she ranked number seven on *Time Magazine’s* list of the “100 Most Read Female Writers in College Classes,” just behind Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, at number six and beating out the likes of George Eliot, Alice Walker, Charlotte Bronte and many other famous authors.

Former HCC president David Bartley used to introduce her as “the Stephen King of A&P.”

At Commencement in 1996, Marieb received a Distinguished Service Award from HCC. For many years she remained on the HCC Foundation’s Board of Directors. She also established her own philanthropic foundation that has provided money for scholarships, programs and buildings at other institutions that were important to her, including Mount Holyoke College, the University of Massachusetts, and Florida State Gulf Coast University, near her home in Sarasota, Florida.

In 2014, she made a \$1 million donation to the HCC Foundation’s



This page: Top, Marieb talks to a student during a visit to the Elaine Marieb New Pathways Center. Bottom, Marieb holds a bouquet of flowers after the dedication of Marieb science building in May 2000.

Opposite page: Top, Professor Marieb in the classroom. Bottom, Marieb in her younger days; Marieb with President David Bartley after the 1996 dedication of the Elaine Marieb Anatomy & Physiology Lab; Marieb in 2008 with President William Messner.





Building Healthy Communities campaign to support construction of the Center for Health Education (home to HCC’s Nursing and Radiologic Technology programs) and the Center for Life Sciences (for biotechnology and microbiology) on the first floor of the Marieb Building.

After retiring, she moved to Florida. During her annual visits to HCC she always made a point to visit the Marieb Center. “This place,” she once said, “you’re my heart.”

Erica Broman, HCC’s former vice president of Institutional Development, who now works at Westfield State University, served for many years as Marieb’s campus liaison and escort.

Marieb didn’t like talking to “muckety mucks” – administrators and bureaucrats. But she softened during visits to the Marieb Center, even tearing up once listening to students tell their stories, because, Broman said, “it was what she had lived through.”

Her last visit was in June 2014 after a courtyard barbecue and celebration to thank her for her latest gift.

“She had this larger-than-life reputation,” said Irma Medina, coordinator of the Pathways program, “but when she came in here she would let the students be the center of attention. She loved coming here. She loved talking to students.”

A note on the cover of a tattered journal asks students who use the center to “say thanks to our benefactor, Elaine Marieb.”

“Blessings to you for providing this space,” says one entry. “It feels like my safe haven. I am so grateful to be able to come here.”

“It’s like a sanctuary to me,” reads another.

“A refuge.”

“A home base.”

“An oasis.”

“The thing I will miss most about HCC.”

Marieb liked to be kept up to date on events and students at the center. Every so often, Medina would photocopy the latest journal entries and Broman would mail them to her in Florida so, between visits, she could read stories like this:

“I had you as an instructor many, many years ago in the nursing program. I learned so much from you and had a wonderful career as an RN. At the age of 59 I’ve returned to school to follow my childhood dream of attaining a BA in English with a focus on creative writing. Irma Medina has been my adviser in the Pathways program and I’ve spent many hours of ‘womenship’ in the Marieb Center. I’m lucky enough to have been accepted into the Frances Perkins program at Mount Holyoke. Thank you.” 



Top, Marieb, with President William Messner and Erica Broman, vice president of Institutional Development, holds a ceremonial check recognizing her donation of \$1 million. Middle, President William Messner escorts Marieb through the HCC Courtyard in June 2014 during a campus celebration in her honor and what would be her last visit to HCC. Bottom, Marieb talks to a student in the Marieb Center. “This place,” she once said, “You’re my heart.”

# Soldier's sacrifice inspires scholarship

By CHRIS YURKO

It's unlikely U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Clint J. Storey ever set foot on the Holyoke Community College campus, and there's no reason to believe he knew about the college at all. Yet his name and legacy are now bound to HCC in a way his widow hopes will last long after she is no longer around to remind people of his life and sacrifice.

Storey was born, raised and buried in Oklahoma. In 1998, at the age of 21, he joined the Army as a Calvary scout. He completed basic training in Kentucky and served in California, Texas, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kansas, Germany, and, finally, Iraq, where, in 2006, he was killed in Ramadi during a combat patrol after an IED exploded under his Humvee. He was 30 years old.

Storey left behind his wife of six years, Melissa – then pregnant with their son, Clint II (“CJ”) – and their 4-year-old daughter, Adela. The three settled in Palmer, Mass., near Melissa’s parents.

A few years ago, Melissa connected with the Village to Village Foundation, a nonprofit founded by two female veterans to honor soldiers killed in combat. Village to Village started in 2006, producing and distributing wooden tokens laser-printed with the images and names of fallen soldiers. They called it the “Pay a Good Deed Forward” program. The idea was to honor the memory of an individual soldier by performing a good deed, then passing along the token and telling the soldier’s story.

In 2013, Village to Village added a college scholarship program to benefit student-veterans.

“We had a three-pronged approach with our mission,” says Village to Village co-founder and chairperson Gaylin Wilkins, an Army veteran, “to continue the legacy of the fallen; show the families they’re not forgotten; and try to help combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.”

After issuing tokens for “SSG Clint J. Storey,” Wilkins and Village to Village co-founder Diane Griest asked Melissa if they could set up a scholarship fund in her husband’s name.

“To me it is so important to have people know him,” Melissa said. “I know I’m not going to live

forever to be able to share him with others. This is a way that we can keep him alive long after we’re gone. So, in essence, he will never be forgotten.”

When it came to selecting a college to host the scholarship, Melissa chose HCC. Although she did not attend HCC herself, she had once taken a tour.

“I really liked the campus,” said Melissa, a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham. “For some reason HCC spoke to me, and a lot of my friends have gone there.”

HCC was also close to home.

“I definitely wanted something local so the kids and I could be part of it,” she said. “If we had done something in Oklahoma – we don’t live anywhere near there, so we wouldn’t be able to actively see the difference it made.”

Every year around Thanksgiving Melissa organizes a craft fair at her Palmer church to raise money for the scholarship fund. She uses the media attention to talk about Clint.

“The main reason we do this is because we love him,” she said. “We’ll always love him, and this is a way we get to share him and he can still make a difference to others, even though he’s not here anymore.”

HCC awarded the first SSG Clint J. Storey “Pay a Good Deed Forward Scholarship” in 2017 to Thomas Kim ’17, a combat medic with the 82nd Airborne. In 2018, two students were selected: Brandon Moore, of Chicopee, and Elizabeth Busker, of Wilbraham, both U.S. Marine Corps veterans.

Each of them received an unrestricted award of \$500 and an SSG Clint J. Storey “Pay a Good



HCC student Elizabeth Busker, left, holds her daughter Vivian, while accepting the SSG Clint J. Storey Scholarship from Melissa and Adela Storey.

Deed Forward” token, to keep or pass along.

So far, Melissa and Adela Storey have attended each of the annual spring scholarship receptions, where donors mix with the awardees. At the 2018 event, Melissa and Busker bonded over their shared interest in essential oils.

Since then, Adela, now 16, has been babysitting Busker’s 4-year-old daughter, Vivian, while the third-semester psychology major takes evening classes.

The scholarship, Busker said, is “a huge benefit. I told Melissa, this is totally going back to you.”

“She’s doing things to further her education and her life,” Melissa said. “I’m really glad we get to be part of seeing all of this.”

There are two ways to contribute to the SSG Clint J. Storey Scholarship Fund. Go to: [villagetovillagefoundation.org](http://villagetovillagefoundation.org) and click on “Donate!” or through the HCC Foundation at [hcc.edu/donate](http://hcc.edu/donate). 



U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Clint J. Storey

# ALUMNI IN ACTION

**Their STEM Stories** You could hardly walk through the UMass Center in downtown Springfield on Oct. 24 without bumping into a woman who had studied a STEM subject at HCC. That was no coincidence. That night, the four community colleges in western Massachusetts co-hosted “My STEM Story,” an event launching the Pioneer Valley Women in STEM networking and support group. The center was filled with students and alumni – predominantly from HCC – along with professionals working in STEM fields. A three-person panel, moderated by Prasha Sarwate Dutra, host of the “Her STEM Story” podcast, included two HCC alumni: **Michelle Rame '17**, now studying engineering at Western New England University; and **Carla Velez Garcia '10**, a science teacher at Van Sickle Middle School in Springfield. Among the other guests were HCC president Christina Royal, who majored in math as an undergraduate at Marist College and **Alysha Putnam '07**, one of the event organizers, a marine biologist and the STEM special programs coordinator at Greenfield Community College.

*1.1 HCC alumni Kaishla Cabrera '17, Ji-Hyun Pak '18, Diane Grunwald '17, Cynthia Camacho '17, Theodore McCormick '17, and Yvonne Thomas '15 attended the launch event for Pioneer Valley Women in STEM.*

*1.2 Michelle Rame '17 tells her STEM story during a discussion for the “Her STEM Story” podcast.*

**‘We couldn’t be prouder’** HCC students preparing for careers in the culinary arts and hospitality industry will benefit from a \$50,000 donation from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. In a brief ceremony Oct. 2 at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, the foundation’s president, **Bill Wagner '71**, presented an oversized check for that amount to HCC president Christina Royal and officials from the nonprofit HCC Foundation. The donation will go toward programs, equipment, maintenance, instruction, and student services at the institute, which opened a year ago in downtown Holyoke. Wagner called the institute a “remarkable,” “impressive” and “unique” facility. “HCC has a rich history of providing quality education in western Mass. and we couldn’t be prouder to stand behind them,” he said.

*2. Bill Wagner '71, president of the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, stands outside the second floor general purpose lab (teaching kitchen) at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, with Matthew Szetela, a graduate of HCC’s Line Cook Training classes who is now working at MGM in Springfield.*

**Guidance Session Elizabeth “Jay” Eveson '18** was the featured speaker at the annual fall Guidance Counselors Breakfast organized by the HCC Admissions office. Eveson talked about her evolution from high school, where she struggled, to HCC, where she realized “her potential.” “The academics here are meant to prepare students for further academic pursuit,” said Eveson, who is now working on her bachelor’s degree at Mount Holyoke College, “and, so, they are challenging, but they are also intended to help you find yourself. That is what community college is all about: giving those who need it a place and time to understand themselves and their dreams ... HCC taught me to have a voice, and that is something I will always be grateful for.”

*3. Eveson talks to guidance counselors from area high schools during a breakfast at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.*

**Scoring Big** Four-time Emmy-award winning composer **Bruce Zimmerman '78** returned to campus in October as an alumni guest for the HCC Music department’s weekly series of free Wednesday lectures and concerts. Zimmerman owns Sound Productions, a film-scoring studio he runs from the basement of his Windsor, Conn., home. To date, he has scored more than 500 programs for a variety of corporate and commercial clients, with some of his most recent work appearing on networks such as PBS, MTV, TLC, The History Channel, and Discovery. He won his four Emmys in the category of Outstanding Individual Achievement in Original Music Composition for his work in public television.

*4. Zimmerman, far right, catches up with two former HCC music classmates who turned out for his talk: HCC music professor Robert Ferrier '77, left, and Kevin Paul '78, center, a classical guitarist and singer.*

**Super Cover** The Hazen Paper Company of Holyoke has built a national reputation for the luminescent, holographic images it produces using a patented conversion process that incorporates thin layers of aluminum into colorful designs. Hazen’s prolific and award-winning work can be seen on everything from credit cards, trading cards, and DVD covers to product packaging and publications used by corporate giants including Titleist, Godiva, Michael Korrs, and, since 2004, the NFL. For the past 16 years, the third-generation, family-owned business, founded in 1925 and now led by **John H. Hazen '84**, has been producing the holographic images used on the cover of the Super Bowl programs sold at the host stadium on Super Bowl Sunday.

*5. John H. Hazen '84, president of Hazen Paper Co. in Holyoke, holds a copy of the Super Bowl LIII stadium program featuring a holographic image of the NFL’s Lombardi Trophy.*



# Class Notebook

## What's going on in your life?

We want to know what you've been up to since your school days at HCC. Send news of your wedding, retirement, promotion, travels, children/grandchildren, awards, academic achievements, military honors, whatever!

Email news and photos to [alumni@hcc.edu](mailto:alumni@hcc.edu) or mail us at the Alumni Connection, c/o Alumni Relations, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040.

The deadline for the Fall 2019 publication is June 1, 2019.

### 1987



**Robert P. Ziomek** is vice president of Institutional Advancement at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Mass. Ziomek majored in liberal arts at HCC and then transferred to North

Adams State College (now MCLA), where he earned his bachelor's degree in history/political science in 1989.

After a co-cop job at HCC and an internship at NASC in the Advancement office, he went to work at Northfield Mount Hermon, then Brown University, Westfield State University and Western New England University, before returning after 30 years to MCLA. He lives in South Hadley.

### 1988



**Bob Flannery**, general manager of the Boise Hawks, a minor league affiliate of MLB's Colorado Rockies, was voted "executive of the year" for 2018 by his peers in the Northwest League. Flannery, who

hails from South Hadley, graduated from HCC with his associate degree in business before transferring to the University of Massachusetts. Since 2015, his first season in Boise, home attendance has increased 44 percent, including a run of 11 straight sellouts starting in 2017. In western Massachusetts, Flannery grew up

a Holyoke Millers fan and pitched for South Hadley High School and Holyoke American Legion Post 325 and in the Tri-County League. Before embarking on a career in minor league front offices – this season will be his 20th – he coached baseball at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass.

### 2002



#### Mark A. Hudgik

returned to campus in 2018 as the new director of Admissions.

After graduating from HCC with his associate degree in liberal arts, he earned a bachelor's

degree in history from UMass and master's degree in higher education administration from Bay Path University. Hudgik enrolled at HCC in 2000 after serving four years in the U.S. Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, as an aerospace propulsion and jet engine journeyman and programs manager. He notes that a work-study job in the college Career Center during his two years at HCC set him down the path toward a career in higher education. He served most recently as director of Admission at Greenfield Community College and previously held admissions positions at Bay Path University and the Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley. A Granby native, he now lives in Hadley with his wife, Ellen.

### 2003

**Ruby Maddox** was one of the guest speakers for a TEDx talk at the MassMutual Center in Springfield on Oct. 12. The theme of the event



was "Connect!" and the title of Maddox's talk "How we Connect to our Highest Purpose." Maddox is the chief purpose director at Direct Your Purpose, an educational consultancy aimed at developing

self-directed leaders. She also works at Mount Holyoke College as the internship and study abroad coordinator and is the co-founder of the nonprofits Gardening the Community and Leaders of the Free World. Her talk is available on the TEDx channel on YouTube.

### 2004



**Michael Leganza** is now a systems analyst in HCC's Information Technology department. He earned his associate degree in computer information systems from HCC, then went on for his bachelor's degree

in business administration and MBA from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He has worked in IT support since 2001, including stints at Westfield State University, Tanglewood, Smith & Wesson and most recently as associate network systems administrator for L3 KE0 in Northampton. He lives in Westfield.

### 2007

**Mary Beth Buckley** earned her associate degree from HCC in radiologic technology and is now a full-time instructor in that program at HCC. She holds a bachelor's degree in Afro-

American Studies from UMass Amherst and a master's degree in radiologic technology from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. She has been a member of the adjunct faculty at HCC since 2016 and a radiologic technologist at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield since 2007.

## 2012



**Rachael Slozak** of Warren has been promoted to branch manager of North Brookfield Savings Bank's Three Rivers location. Slozak joined North Brookfield Savings Bank in 2014 when

Family First Bank merged with North Brookfield Savings Bank and most recently served as the assistant branch manager. She earned her associate degree in psychology from HCC and holds a Fundamentals of Banking certificate from the New England College of Business. She has more than six years of experience in the banking industry and is also very active in the community, volunteering for the Three Rivers Right TRACK Festival, West Brookfield Asparagus and Heritage Festival and the West Brookfield White Christmas Open House in past years. She has also decorated the North Brookfield Savings Bank tree for the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center Tree and Wreath Festival and participated in the Ware Flair Parade.

## 2016



**Jane Kaufman** recently returned to her home state of Ohio and is working as a staff reporter for the Cleveland Jewish News. A veteran journalist, Kaufman has worked for more than 25 years

as a newspaper reporter, editor, editorial writer and columnist, including stints at the Naugatuck Daily News in Connecticut, the North Adams Transcript, and, most recently and for many years, the Springfield Republican. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Grinnell College in Iowa. A life-long learner, she studied both music and cooking at HCC, earning her certificate in Culinary Arts and then studying baking and pastry at the New England Culinary Institute. She is also a former tutor in the HCC Writing Center.

# In Memoriam

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following members of the HCC community:

Theodore T. Kusnierz '50	Kevin P. Walsh '84
Donald V. Lavallee '54	Susan A. Fitchet '85
Madelyn Allen '61	Pola Marie Valentine '88
Michael J. Bachand '70	Merrill W. Kingsley '89
Armand R. Chartier '72	Robin Jeanne Damkauskas '90
Cornelius Shea '72	Paula J. Hebert '90
Allan R. Benoit '73	Lisa A. Baker '93
Paulina M. Zuffoletti '74	Emma T. Hernandez '96
Michael A. Driscoll '76	Kristopher R. Adams '96
Anne Marie Wocjak '76	Elizabeth F. Reed '00
Peter R. Crowe '77	Joan C. Vecchio '00
Theresa A. Losito '77	Bryan L. Clarke '01
Mary M. Naro '78	Honore J. Gallant '06
Rozanne L. Chouinard '79	Elaine E. Hartman '06
Verna E. McMahon '81	Heidi L. Martin-Coleman '11
Anne P. Hartley '84	Kelly N. Booth '12
Peter McCavick '84	Jaime A. Tudryn '12
Theresa M. Michalczyk '84	David P. Gould '17

Paul Blais, *retired staff, business*

Carl W. Buschner, *emeriti, business*

Marita Callahan, *emeriti, nursing*

Louis Oldershaw, *former HCC Foundation board member*

Elaine Marieb '80, *emeriti, biology*

Karen A. Kroll '76, *emeriti*

Lawrence W. Smith, *emeriti, art*

If you would like to contribute in memory of a classmate, friend or relative, visit [hcc.edu/donate](http://hcc.edu/donate) or call Kim Gifford at 413.552.2308.

# HCC Album



## FORCED PERSPECTIVE

Construction continues on the top-to-bottom, guts-to-glory, \$43.5 million renovation of the HCC Campus Center. But not for long. As you can see from the before and after photos above and below, work on the building's exterior, a least, is largely complete and the project on schedule for re-opening before the start of the Fall 2019 semester. The renovation has added about 9,000 square feet to what was previously a 57,000-square-foot building. Most of that new space is on the second floor, behind the high windows in the bottom photo, where an expanded dining room and new student engagement area will be located. Another major development is the addition of the bridge over Tannery Brook leading to a new "front door" to the facility and the campus in general. 

*To take a look inside and out back, please go to: [hcc.edu/CC-SP19](http://hcc.edu/CC-SP19)*





# 2019 EVENTS



## Thursday-Saturday, April 25-27

### Ugly Lies the Bone

7:30 p.m. (and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27)

Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine & Performing Arts Building

Jess, a newly discharged soldier, returns to her Florida hometown, bringing vivid memories of battle in Afghanistan – and painful burns that have left her physically and emotionally scarred. Through the use of virtual reality video game therapy, she builds a breathtaking new world where she can escape her pain, helping her restore her relationships, her life and herself. Directed by Tim Cochran.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call the box office at 413.552.2528

Tickets: \$10 (general admission); \$8 (students and seniors); \$5 (HCC students, faculty and staff)



## Sunday, May 5

### Holyoke Civic Symphony Orchestra Benefit Concert

3 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine & Performing Arts Building

\$10 general admission, \$5 children under 12, free for HCC students with valid ID.



## Thursday, May 9

### Scholarship Meet and Greet

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Gymnasium, Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation

Join members of the HCC Foundation and Alumni Council as they honor more than 200 student scholarship recipients and thank the individuals, businesses and organizations whose generosity make those awards possible.



## Wednesday, May 22

### Honors & Student Awards Night

6:30 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine & Performing Arts Building

Join the HCC community as we celebrate student success with faculty staff, families and friends.



## Saturday, June 1

### 72nd Commencement

10 a.m. – 12 noon, MassMutual Center, Springfield, Mass.



## Sunday, June 30

### Fiscal Year End

It's the last day of HCC's fiscal year, so we want to provide a friendly reminder to make your tax-deductible annual gift if you have not already done so. You can make a big impact on a student's life. Visit [www.hcc.edu/donate](http://www.hcc.edu/donate). Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Monday, September 9

### 32nd Annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic

Springfield Country Club, West Springfield, Mass.

Join alumni and friends on the golf course and help raise funds for HCC students and programs. Register to play or sponsor at [hcc.edu/golf](http://hcc.edu/golf). For more information, call Kim Gifford at 413.552.2308



## Fall 2019

### Campus Center Reopening Celebration

Date and Time TBA

# Alumni Connection

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office  
303 Homestead Avenue  
Holyoke, MA 01040

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 [holyokecc](https://www.snapchat.com/add/holyokecc)

 [@holyokecommunity-college](https://www.instagram.com/holyokecommunity-college)

 [www.youtube.com/user/HolyokeCC](https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyokeCC)

[www.hcc.edu](http://www.hcc.edu)

## Views of the Future

Glass is one of the key features of the new, improved and soon-to-be-reopened HCC Campus Center. Inside, glass dividers define office spaces, and high windows offer bright, sweeping views of the campus and courtyard. Here are two previews: Left, from an expanded dining area on the second floor; right, from the top of the stairs of the new atrium entrance, looking out at the HCC Courtyard. For a view of the outside, see our HCC Album inside on page 20.

